# King Charles HIS SPEECH

Made upon the

# SCAFFOLD

at *Whitehall* Gate,

Immediatly before his Execution,

On Tuesday the 30. of *Jan.* 1648.

With a Relation of the manner of his going to Execution.

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*Published by Spetiall Authority.*

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Printed by Peter Cole, at the Sign of the Printing Press in Cornhill, near the Royall Exchange. 1649.

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*Tuesday, January* 30.

ABout ten in the morning the King was brought from *S^t. Iames's*, walking on foot through the Parke, with a Regiment of foot, part before and part behind him, with Colours flying, *D*rums beating, his private guard of Partizans, with some of his Gentlemen before, and some behind bareheaded, *D*r. Juxon next behind him, and Col. Thomlinson (who had the charge of him) talking with the King bare headed from the *P*ark, up the stairs into the Gallery, and so into the * Cabinet Chamber, where he used to lye, where he continued at his Devotion, refusing to dine [having before taken the Sacrament] only about an hour before he came forth, he drank a glasse of Claret wine, and eat a peice of bread about twelve at noon.

From thence he was accompanyed by *D*r. *Juxon*, Col. *Thomlinson*, and other Officers, formerly appointed to attend him, and the private guard of Partizans, with muskeuiers on each side, through the Banquetting-house adjoyning, to which the Scaffold

*It is observ'd, The King desired to have the use of the Cabinet, and the little room next it, where there was a Trap-door.

ffold was erected, between Whitehall gate, and the gate leading into the gallery from St. James's: The Scaffold was hung round with blacke, and the floore covered with black, and the Axe and Block laid in the middle of the Scaffold.

* It was neare [if not in] the very place where the first blood in the beginning of the late troubles was shed, when the Kings Cavaliers fell upon the Citizens, killed one, and wounded about 50. others.

There were divers companies of foot, and Troopes of Horse placed on the one side the Scaffold towards Kings. street, and on the other side towards Charing Crosse, and the multitudes of people that came to be spectators very great.

The King being come upon the Scaffold look'd very earnestly on the block, and asked Colonell *Hacker* if there were no higher; and then spake thus, (directing his speech chiefly to Col. *Thomlinson*)

# KING,

I Shall be very little heard of any body here, I shall therefore speak a word unto you here; indeed I could hold my peace very well, if I did not think that holding my peace, would make some men think that I did submit to the guilt, as well as to the punishment: but I think it is my duty to God first, and to my Country, for to clear my self both as an honest man, and a good King, and a good Christian. I shall begin first with my Innocency, In troth I think it not very needfull for me to insist long upon this, for all the world knows that I never did begin a War with the two houses of Parliament, and I call God to witnesse, to whom I must shortly make an account, that I never did intend for to incroach upon their Priviledges, they began upon me, it is the Militia, they began upon, they confest that the Militia was mine, but they thought it fit for to have it from me; and to be short, if any body will look to the dates of Commissions, of their Commissions and mine, and likewise to the Declarations, will see clearly that they began these unhappy troubles not I; so that as the guilt of these Enormous crimes that are laid against me, I hope in God that God will clear me of it, I will not, I am in charity; God forbid that I should lay it upon the two Houses of Parliament, there is no necessity of either, I hope they are free of this

this guilt, for I do beleeve that ill Instruments between them and me, has been the chiefe cause of all this bloodshed; so that by way of speaking, as I find my selfe clear of this, I hope, and pray God that they may too: yet for all this, God forbid that I should be so ill a Christian, as not to say that Gods judgements are just upon me: Many times he does pay justice by an unjust Sentence, that is ordinary; I will only say this, That an unjust Sentence * that I suffered for to take effect, is punished now by an unjust sentence upon me, that is, so farre I have said, to shew you that I am an innocent man.

* Strafford.

Now for to shew you that I am a good Christian: I hope there is *a good man that will bear me witness, that I have forgiven all the world, and even those in particular that have beene the chiefe causers of my death: who they are, God knowes, I doe not desire to know, I pray God forgive them. But this is not all, my Charity must goe further, I wish that they may repent, for indeed they have committed a great sin in that particular. I pray God with St. *Stephen*, That this be not laid to their charge; nay, not only so, but that they may take the right way to the peace of the Kingdom, for my Charity commands me not only to forgive particular men, but my charity commands me to endeavour to the last gasp the peace of the Kingdom: So (Sirs) I do wish with all my soul, and I doe hope [there is *some here will carry it further] that they may endeavour the Peace of the Kingdom. Now [Sirs] I must shew you both how you are out of the way, and will put you in way, first, you are out of the way, for certainly all the way you ever have had yet as *I* could find by any thing, is in the way of Conquest; certainly this is an ill way, for Conquest (*Sir*) in my opinion is never just, except, there be a good just cause, either for matter of wrong or just Title, and then if you go beyond it, the first quarrel that you have to it, that makes it unjust at the end, that was just at first.

* Pointing to Dr *Juxon*.

* Turning to some Gentlemen that wrot

But if it be only matter of Conquest, then it is a great Robberie; as a pirat said to *Alexander*, that He was the great Rober, he was but a petrie Robber; and so, Sir, I doe think the way that you are in, is much out of the way.

Now

Now Sir, for to put you in the way, beleive it you will never do right, nor God will never prosper you, untill you give God his due, the King his due [that is my Successors] and the people their due; I am as much for them as any of you: You must give God his due, by regulating rightly his Church (according to his Scripture) which is now out of order: For to set you in a way particularly now I cannot, but only this, A National Synod freely called, freely debate among themselves, must settle this, when that every opinion is freely and clearly heard.

For the King, indeed *I* will not, (then turning to a Gentleman that touched the Ax said, *Hurt not the Ax that may hurt me.* * For the King.) The Lawes of the Land will clearly instruct you for that; therefore, because it concerns My Own particular, I only give you a touch of it.

* Meaning if he did blut the edge.

For the people. And truly *I* desire their Liberty and freedom, as much as any body whomsoever; but I must tell you, that their Liberty and their freedom, consists in having of Government; those Laws, by which their life and their goods, may be most their own.

It is not for having share in Government (Sir) that is nothing pertaining to them. A Subject and a Soveraign are clean different things; and therefore, untill they do that, I mean, that you do put the people in that liberty as I say, certainly they will never enjoy themselves.

Sirs, It was for this, that now I am come here: If I would have given way to an Arbitrary way for to have all Laws changed according to the power of the Sword, I needed not to have com here, and therefore, I tell you, [and I pray God it be not laid to your charge,] that I am the Martyr of the People.

Introth Sirs, I shall not hold you much longer; for I will onely say this to you, That in truth, I could have desired some little time

time longer, because I would have put this that I have said, in a little more order, and a litrl better digested, then I have don; and therefore I hope you will excuse me,

I have delivered my Conscience, I pray God, that you do take those courses that are best for the good of the Kingdome, and your owne salvation.

*Doctor Iuxon.*

Will Your Majesty (though it may be very well known your Majesties Affection to Religion, yet it may be expected, that You should) say somewhat for the Worlds satisfaction.

*KING.*

I thank you very heartily (my Lord) for that, I had almost forgotten it. In troth Sirs, my Conscience in Religion, I think, is very well known to all the world, and therefore, I declare before you all, that I die a Christian according to the profession of the Church of *England*, as I found it left *Me* by my Father, and this honest man (*) I think will witnesse it. Then turning to the Officers said, Sirs excuse me for this same. I have a good cause, and I have a gracious God. I will say no more. Then turning to Colonell *Hacker*, he said, take care that they do not put Me to paine, and Sir this, and it please you: But then a Gentleman comming neer the Ax, the King said, Take heed of the Ax, pray take heed of the Ax. Then the King speaking to the Executioner, said, I shall say but very short prayers, and when I thrust out my hands——Then the King called to Doctor *Iuxon* for his Night Cap, and having put it on, He said to the Executioner, does my Hair troubl you, who desired him to put it all under his Cap, which the King did accordingly, by the help of the Executioner and the Bishop, then the King turning to Doctor *Iuxon* said I have a good Cause, and a gracious God on my side.

* Pointing to Doctor *Iuxon*.

*Doctor*

Doctor *Iuxon.*

There is but one Stage more. This Stage is turbulent and troublesome it is a short one: But you may consider it will soon carry you a very great way, it will carry you from Earth to Heaven, and there you shall finde a great deale of cordial, joy, and comfort.

*KING.*

I goe from a corruptible, to an incorruptible Crown: where no disturbance can be, no disturbance in the world.

Doctor *Iuxon.*

You are exchanged from a temporall to an eternall Crowne, a good exchange.

The King then said to the Executioner, is my Hair well: Then the King took off his Cloak and his Georg, giving his George to Doctor *Iuxon*, saying, Remember * ——— Then the King put off His Dublet, and being in His Wastecoat, put his Cloake on again; then looking upon the block, said to the Executioner, You must set it fast.

* It is thought for to give to the Prince.

*Executioner,* It is fast Sir.

*King.* It might have been a little higher.

*Executioner.* It can be no higher Sir.

*King.* When *I* put out my hands this way, * then ———

* Stretching them out.

After that having said two or three words (as he stood) to himselfe with hands and eyes lift up, immediatly stooping down, laid his Neck upon the Block: And then the Executioner again putting his Hair under his Cap, the King said, * Stay for the signe.

* Thinking he had been going to strike.

*Executioner.* Yes *I* will: and it please your Majesty.

And after a very little paule, the King stretching forth his hands: The Executioner at one blow, severed his head from his Body.

That when the Kings head was cut off, the Executioner held it up, and shewed it to the spectators.

And his Body was put in a Coffin, covered with black Velvet, for that purpose.

The Kings Body now lies in his Lodging Chamber in *White-Hall.*

*Sic transit gloria Mundi.*

*FINIS.*